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Hampshire
Department of
Education**

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Messages From the Department of Education

February 2015

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ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, INSTRUCTION, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. Assessment Memo 2014-2015

This memo includes information about New Hampshire's statewide assessment system for the 2014-15 school year. The system includes Smarter Balanced, NECAP Science, Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM), NH Science Alternate Learning Portfolio's (ALPs), ACCESS for English language learners, and the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) as well as helpful contacts and resources. To view the memo go to www.education.nh.gov/instruction/accountability/notices.htm.

Contact: Scott Mantie, Ph.D., (603) 271-3844 Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov

B. Testing Window for Spring 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessment Administration

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Testing Window will open statewide on Monday, March 16, 2015. The window is 12 calendar weeks and will end on Friday, June 5, 2015. All assessments must be completed by grade spans within the 12 week window; however you do not need to take the whole 12 weeks if you are able to test in a shorter span using the overlapping week schedule described below. The grade spans within the window are:

- Grades 3 & 4 during weeks 1-6
- Grades 5 & 6 during weeks 3-8
- Grades 7, 8, & 11 during weeks 5-12

Contact: Scott Mantie, Ph.D., (603) 271-3844 Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. NHDOE 6th Annual Statewide Data Conference

- **When:** Choose between Monday March 16th or Tuesday March 17th
- **What:** Learn from NHDOE Trainers and Colleagues: Morning hands-on sessions and short afternoon breakouts, with a Smarter Balanced demo in P+ at the end of the day
- **Where:** Grappone Center in Concord
- **Why:** Because New Hampshire Educators Love Data

To register: <http://goo.gl/uhsbsV>

Contact: Tammy Morse, (603) 543-4220 x 1035, tmorse@sau6.org or
Irene Koffink, (603) 271-3865, Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov

B. PerformancePLUS

a) Free Half Day Trainings

Use PerformancePLUS to help your school become more data driven. These beginner-level, half-day trainings will focus on key components of P+ related to student performance, such as student detail page, interventions, individual learning plans, and reporting. Included in the four hour session only are creating reports and refining reports with use of filters. Training dates and times:

February 12th - 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Walker Building on Fruit Street
February 13th - 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Walker Building on Fruit Street

Due to space limitations please use this link to register <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J3XXVMF>. For information on these trainings, please contact our Data Coach Cyndy Carrier ccurrier@mac.com

b) PerformancePLUS Updates

PerformancePLUS is IT! We will not have to use two systems for our state assessment results! PerformancePLUS will be the single platform through which schools view their test results, on a rolling basis, starting several weeks after testing begins.

Contact: Irene Koffink, (603) 271-3865, Irene.Koffink@doe.nh.gov

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)/TITLE III

A. ESOL Local Compliance Plan

The federal Office of Civil Rights states that **every** School District/SAU must write a comprehensive local plan (also known as a LAU plan) for English Learners (ELs) in grades K-12. The plan should be developed by an educational team which includes the local ESOL Coordinator/certified ESOL teacher. The compliance plan must address the following topics and provide detailed information on local implementation (*Please see* <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/ell/index.html>).

- Selecting the educational approach and setting goals
- Identification and placement of potential English Learners
- Assessment of ELs
- Program of instructional services for ELs
- Staffing and resources
- Transition from ESOL services and monitoring performance
- ELs and other educational programs
- Program evaluation, review, and improvement/revision

When writing the local plan, the School District/SAU should use the NH DOE State guidance available at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/integrated/esol/documents/esol_guidance8-21-12revised.pdf to develop the content for each topic listed above.

The local compliance plan must be updated periodically to reflect changes in State or Federal policy, or changes in the local program for English Learners. A copy of the completed plan must be sent to the NHDoe Title III/ESOL office

Contact: Andrea Somoza-Norton, (603) 271-2034, Andrea.Somoza-Norton@doe.nh.gov

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. Next Steps NH: Implementing Secondary Transition Practices in Special Education Teacher Preparation Programs

The purpose of this RFP is to seek proposals and bids from New Hampshire Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) with Special Education Teacher Preparation Programs to develop secondary transition curriculum focused on transition planning, family engagement, and

Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs), in their teacher preparation programs. The intent is for students to leave the Special Education Teacher Preparation Program with knowledge of secondary transition practices and strategies they will need to prepare students to be college and career ready. Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

Contact: Amy Aiello, (603) 271-1536, Amy.Aiello@doe.nh.gov

B. Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals

This request for proposals is for projects that will increase teacher knowledge of core subject matter and effective instructional strategies, and be designed to document application of the knowledge and pedagogy in the classroom to increase student achievement. Projects may include the development of core content knowledge for principals and assistant principals (as appropriate) to serve as effective school leaders. The State agencies for higher education (SAHEs) develop criteria for awarding subgrants to eligible partnerships comprised of at least (1) one institution of higher education (IHE), including its division that prepares teachers and principals, (2) one school of arts and sciences, and (3) one high-need local education agency (LEA). The partnerships use the funds to conduct professional development activities in core academic subjects to ensure that teachers, highly qualified paraprofessionals, and (if appropriate) principals have a deep understanding of content including computer-related technology to enhance instruction. The purpose of these grants is to increase the academic achievement of all students by helping schools and districts improve teacher instruction and principal quality in terms of instructional leadership. Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 24, 2015.

Contact: Ashley Frame, (603) 271-6579, Ashley.Frame@doe.nh.gov

HEARINGS

A. Ed 506.05, Ed 614.13 and Ed 505.03(c), Curriculum Administrator

A public hearing will be held February 18, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, 03301. Deadline for written comment will be March 4, 2015.

B. Ed 1200, Child Restraint

Public hearings will be held February 18, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. and February 19, 2015 from 5:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord NH 03301. Deadline for written comment will be March 4, 2015.

Contact: Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. Girls Technology Day

On Wednesday, March 18th and Thursday, March 19th, the NH Department of Education will proudly co-sponsor the third annual Girls Technology Day, in partnership with the NH Community College System. The events will be held at NHTI, Concord's Community College, and Manchester Community College, respectively. This is the first year that there will be two events in response to the demand for more students to be able to attend. The event will focus on freshmen and sophomore students because that is the age when many

students begin focusing on interests that ultimately may become career paths. In New Hampshire, as in other states, there is a severe shortage of women pursuing technical careers. The Girls Technology Day team is changing this by getting young women interested and invested in the technical fields early in their high school careers. The students will break up into a series of hands-on workshops exploring various high technology topics. During their lunch break, students will also have the opportunity to attend a technology exhibition, where they can learn about college options, see more technology at work, and even learn about signing up for internships. To register or for more information go to sites.google.com/site/gtd2015nh.

Contact: Jennifer Kiley, (603) 573-0600, Jennifer.Kiley@doe.nh.gov

B. Next Steps Cohort Three Application

The Bureau of Special Education is pleased to announce the posting of the application for Cohort 3 Next Steps NH High School Pilot Sites. The Next Steps NH project provides the selected applicants professional development and coaching to implement evidenced-based transition practices for the purpose of increasing the number of students with disabilities and students at risk of dropping out who are college and career ready in New Hampshire. Some of the practices will involve family engagement strategies and increasing the use of Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs). In addition, pilot sites will also have the option of implementing Rehabilitation for Empowerment, Natural supports, Education, and Work (RENEW). To help guide school districts through the application process, there will be informational webinars available. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/instruction/special_ed/nextstepsnh.htm.

Contact: Amy Aiello, (603) 271-1536, Amy.Aiello@doe.nh.gov

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ADVISORY

A. Statewide Assessment Participation

On January 26th the NH DOE issued a technical assistance advisory regarding the statewide assessment requirements. This is aligned with the other advisories that we have sent on this issue, and it continues to clarify the law around the assessment implementation. This advisory, as well as previous advisories, can be found on the Department's Web site at www.education.nh.gov/standards/tech_advisories.htm.

B. Statewide Assessment Participation and Course Material Exemptions

On January 13th the NH DOE issued a technical assistance advisory pertaining to the Statewide Assessment and Course Material Exemptions. We continue to receive questions regarding the participation of students in the statewide assessment. Most recently we received an inquiry asking if there were any consequences/sanctions to students and parents for non-participation. We have added an addendum to our Technical Advisory on participation that we sent out last May to clarify these questions. This advisory, as well as previous advisories, can be found on the Department's Web site at www.education.nh.gov/standards/tech_advisories.htm.

Contact: Heather Gage, (603) 271-5992, Heather.Gage@doe.nh.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. High School Redesign in Action

High School Redesign in Action is the New England Secondary School Consortium's sixth annual conference for educators to share success stories, exchange best practices, and continue to build momentum for innovations that will prepare all students for success in the colleges, careers, and communities of the 21st century. This conference will take place Thursday and Friday, March 26-27, 2015, at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood, Massachusetts. To register or for more information go to http://newenglandssc.org/conference/conference_details or contact Becky Vance, at rvance@greatschoolspartnership.org or (207) 773-0505.

B. Media Literacy for Safe and Healthy Choices

Through an initiative of Governor Maggie Hassan, funded through a grant from the Office of the NH Attorney General, Media Power Youth is offering violence prevention through media literacy. This initiative allows them to provide their evidence-based curriculum at no cost to upper elementary teachers and school professionals throughout the state who attend training and commit to implementing the program within their school or district. The initiative is supported by the NH Department of Education, NH Association of School Principals, the NH School Counselor Association, NH Pediatric Society and the US Attorney for NH.

Upcoming trainings:

March 16, 2015; 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; North Country Education Services; 300 Gorham Hill Road, Gorham

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/north-country-media-literacy-teacher-training-and-curriculum-registration-13820275817>

April 9, 2015; 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center; 1 Medical Center Drive, Lebanon

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lebanon-media-literacy-teacher-training-and-curriculum-registration-11650289329>

For more information go to www.mediapoweryouth.org or e-mail media@mediapoweryouth.org.

C. NEA-NH Spring Conference – Save the Date

The NEA-NH Spring Instructional Conference will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015. Information will be posted at www.neanh.org or contact Allison (Ally) Snyder at asnyder@nhnea.org.

D. NHDOE Title III/ESOL Office & Accountability and Assessment Department Leadership Support for Collaboration and Co-teaching - March 2, 2015, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Local Government Center, 25 Triangle Park, Concord, NH

One of the 21st century competencies proclaimed by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills is collaboration. This all-day workshop takes a broad-based look at what effective teacher collaboration looks like, what essential frameworks need to be established for ESL and mainstream teachers to work together, and how administrators, coaches and teacher leaders can support an integrated approach to ESL services. For more information or to register please go to <http://goo.gl/3kSqOj>.

RESOURCES

A. NH Alerts Mobile App

The New Hampshire Department of Safety launched its NH Alerts mobile app, a free tool that notifies users of hazards in the area based upon cellphone location. The NH Alerts app was developed by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management with federal grants. Anyone with the NH Alerts app on their phone will know about safety issues in their area, from accidents and road closures, to hazardous weather and active shooters. You can download the app by visiting <http://www.readynh.gov/alerts/index.htm>.

OTHER

NH Teacher of the Year Nominations

Superintendents, principals, teachers, school staff members, teacher organizations, parents, and others interested in New Hampshire schools are encouraged to nominate an outstanding teacher by submitting their request to the New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE) by February 17, 2015. A Teacher of the Year candidate should be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled person from any state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, who demonstrates leadership and intends to continue in the teaching profession. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is worthy of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. Selecting a Teacher of the Year is an exceptional way to celebrate the many outstanding and dedicated people teaching in New Hampshire schools. Teacher of the Year nomination applications can be downloaded from the DOE Web site at www.education.nh.gov/recognition/toy.htm. Nominees must submit their applications to the NH DOE by March 19, 2015. All nominees who submit the required information will be honored at a ceremony in April.

Contact: Lori Temple, (603) 271-6646, Lori.Temple@doe.nh.gov

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)

The PAEMST program is pleased to announce that the 2014-2015 application period for 7-12 grade mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers is now open. Please consider nominating a talented teacher or applying yourself. PAEMST is the highest honor the United States government bestows for K–12 mathematics and science teaching, honoring up to 108 teachers each year. Presidential awardees receive a certificate signed by the President, a trip for two to Washington, D.C., to attend a series of recognition events, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The nomination deadline is April 1, and the application deadline is May 1. For more information or to nominate a teacher go to www.education.nh.gov/recognition/math_science.htm.

Contact: Jiffi Rainie, (603) 271-7450, Jennifer.Rainie@doe.nh.gov

Call for NHPLT Outstanding Educator

Since 1998, NH Project Learning Tree has formally recognized the efforts of outstanding educators for their commitment to environmental education, their exemplary use of PLT, and their exceptional teaching skills. We are currently seeking an educator that will be

recognized at the New Hampshire PLT annual celebration on May 17. If you know someone who you think deserves this recognition, please submit a nomination form. To nominate a teacher or for more information go to <http://www.nhplt.org/news/?view=58>. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Silverberg, NHPLT Coordinator, judy.silverberg@gmail.com.

Fire and Life Safety Poster Contest and Calendar

This poster contest is being organized by the Office of the NH State Fire Marshal and the New Hampshire Fire Prevention Society and is open to all third graders. The winning posters will be set in the next Fire and Life Safety School Year Calendar for 2015-2016 and the student artist along with the teachers and parents will be invited to an awards ceremony and celebration. Once the calendars have been printed every student and teacher who participated in the contest will receive one. Their goal for fire prevention is to make fire safety a part of daily life throughout the year in the homes of all the residents of New Hampshire. For more information go to www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety/special-operations/pub_ed/Teacher_Education.html or call Mary MacCaffrie at the Office of NH State Fire Marshal at (603) 223-4289 or by e-mail at Mary.MacCaffrie@dos.nh.gov. Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2015.

NH High School Short Film Festival

The New Hampshire Film & Television Office, part of the Department of Cultural Resources, will once again present the New Hampshire High School Short Film Festival, which will take place on May 23, 2015 at Red River Theatres in Concord. Students from NH public and private high schools, as well as homeschooled students, are encouraged to submit projects no longer than 7 minutes in length, which do not have to be created as part of a class assignment. The submission period runs from February 1-March 31. More details are available at www.nhstudentfilm.com. Media arts faculty interested in receiving updates about the Festival via e-mail should contact film@nh.gov.

National WWII Museum Essay Contest

This contest is open to all students in grades 5-12 in the United States, US territories, and US military bases. For your essay, please address the following question: How do you define a hero? In your response, use WWII as a starting point and base your essay in part on America's involvement in WWII. But don't stop in the past. Use specific examples from your own experiences that support your ideas. This is not a research paper. Your essay will be judged foremost for its originality, clarity of expression, and adherence to contest theme, as well as its historical accuracy, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Museum staff will read and evaluate entries. Your essay must be 500 words or less. Only one essay per student may be submitted. The Museum will accept the first 500 properly formatted entries only. The website will indicate when we are approaching 500 submitted essays. Essays must be submitted by March 31, 2015, 5:00 p.m. CST. For more information go to www.nationalww2museum.org/essaycontests.

State Arts Council's Grants

The N.H. State Council on the Arts is pleased to announce that, for the first time, applicants to its grant programs may submit their applications through an online grant process.

a) 2015-2016 Artist Residency in Schools Grant

The N.H. State Council on the Arts offers academic year 2015-2016 Artist Residency in School (AIR) grants to support quality arts learning experiences and develop

creative skills. Maximum Grant Request: \$1,000 - \$4,500. Postmark deadline is Friday, April 10, 2015 for projects taking place between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. The AIR grant provides matching funds to bring juried teaching artists, from a variety of disciplines, into public schools and alternative education sites in support of creative learning, career and skills development in the arts.

b) 2015-2016 Youth Arts Project Grant

The N.H. State Council on the Arts offers a Youth Arts Project Grant (YAP) for Creative Youth Development for academic year 2015-2016 for after school and out of school arts projects. Maximum Grant Request: \$1,000 - \$4,500. Postmark deadline is Friday, April 17, 2015 for projects taking place August 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. YAP grants provide matching funds for high-quality arts and cultural education programs that encourage creativity, develop new art skills, foster academic success and healthy youth development for young people (K-12). Visit the State Arts Council's juried roster of teaching artists at www.nh.gov/nharts (click on Artists).

c) Grant Writing Workshops

The NH State Council on the Arts is offering a free Grant Writing Workshop for its AIR and YAP programs on Friday, February 13th, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Plymouth State University (PSU) Graduate Center, Concord, 2 Pillsbury Street, fifth floor. The workshop, led by Catherine O'Brian, Arts Education and Grants Coordinator, will cover the new electronic grant application system, guidelines, roles of partners, thematic curriculum connections, choice of artists, writing goals and outcomes, evaluation, planning residency schedules and budgets. There is no fee to attend but pre-registration is required as space is limited. For more information about the Arts Council's grants, and to view the online application grant process and training materials, visit www.nh.gov/nharts/grants or contact Catherine O'Brian, (603) 271-0795 or Catherine.R.OBrian@dcr.nh.gov. Visit the State Arts Council's juried roster of teaching artists at www.nh.gov/nharts (click on Artists).

Aerospace Dimensions Workshops

Winn Aero, the STEM-oriented educational non-profit organization, has announced its upcoming winter-spring series of Teacher Workshops. Aerospace Dimension's six sessions will run from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Terminal Building of Laconia Airport. The workshops are based on the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Aerospace Education modules. The four remaining sessions are:

- March 7, Air Environment
- March 21, Rockets
- April 4, Space Environment
- April 18, Spacecraft

These hands-on workshops will provide instructors a first person perspective of the engaging, technical content throughout this curriculum. Attendees will also learn about grant organizations which can support implementation of the subject matter into the classroom. Teachers may sign up for the full schedule or choose specific content of interest.

The registration fee for teachers who are already Aerospace Education Members of CAP is \$40. Non-members pay \$75 for their first workshop and then \$40 for all subsequent

workshops. Registration forms and additional information are on-line at <http://www.winnaero.org/!teachers-workshops/c1o14> or by contacting Caron directly at dwcaron@hotmail.com. Seating is limited.

End the Silence Stop the Violence

The New Hampshire Anti-School Violence Awareness & Prevention Conference will take place February 20th at the Department of Safety. This conference is designed for Law Enforcement, School Resource Officers and Educational Administrators. To learn more and to register visit www.FIBostonCAAA.org.

Professional Development at Southeastern Regional Education Service Center (SERESC)

SERESC in Bedford, NH, is presenting the following Professional Development events:

- **Autism Topics**
What's Love Got to Do With It? is taking place February 12, 2015 and is appropriate for parents, professionals, and paraprofessionals who have working knowledge of Autism Spectrum Disorders and common strategies for teaching social cognition and communication. To register or for more information go to www.smores.com/kd4n0.
- *PreK-3 Early Lit Conference* is taking place April 16, 2015. To register or for more information go to www.smores.com/2pp59.

Please contact Sabrina Bryant Sabrina@seresc.net, or Amantha Moore Amantha@seresc.net or call SERESC, (603) 206-6800 with any questions.

Think Global Conference

The World Affairs Council of New Hampshire presents the Think Global Conference, a free day-long conference where high school students will learn about opportunities for a global future. Students can also participate in the afternoon competition – Academic WorldQuest – to test their knowledge of world affairs and global issues. This conference will take place March 7, 2015 at Southern NH University. To register or for more information go to www.wacnh.org/education.

SURVEY: Traditional Arts in the Classroom

The NH State Council in the Arts has developed a 5 minute survey polling which curriculum resources you use regularly and what resources can best support your teaching. The Heritage & Traditional Arts Program of the NH State Council on the Arts is developing curriculum guides and lesson plans to help educators learn about NH's traditional arts and culture, and bring that knowledge into the classroom. They are looking for responses from educators in visual arts, music, theatre, PE, social studies, history, science and classroom teachers. To take the survey go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2MGQCXH>. For more information contact the Heritage & Traditional Arts Coordinator, Julianne Morse at julianne.morse@dcr.nh.gov.

Your Skin Is In Pledge

Registration is now open for the Melanoma Foundation of New England's Your Skin Is In program – a contest for high school and college students to take our Your Skin Is In Pledge to keep their skin healthy and stay UV safe prior to prom, spring break, or other school

sponsored events. This year's contest rules and prizes can be found at <http://mfne.org/prevent-melanoma/your-skin-is-in/>.

Asthma Related Issue Briefs

a) The Impact of Environmental Tobacco Smoke on Children with Asthma

A large national health study found that, among children with asthma, exposure to tobacco smoke resulted in nights with disturbed sleep, activity limitations, wheezing during exercise, and an increased number of missed school days. This issue brief examined and summarized data to better understand the burden of asthma related to second and third hand smoke among New Hampshire children and includes recommendations on how to reduce the burden. To download the issue brief visit: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdpc/asthma/documents/brief-childrenasthmaets.pdf>

b) Asthma Prevalence Among New Hampshire Workers, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2012

A new report highlights the prevalence of asthma among New Hampshire workers by industry and occupation allowing us to explore possible work related injuries and illnesses by industry and/or occupation, utilizing the BRFSS survey. Findings indicate a significantly higher proportion of working adults with current asthma were employed in Education Services during the study period of 2011-2012. The occupations with the highest proportion of workers reporting current asthma included education; training and library; service; and community and social services. More than a third of NH adults with current asthma who were currently employed in 2011 and 2012 reported they believed their asthma was caused or made worse by something at their current job. Studies like this can help target asthma prevention resources to specific industries and occupations. To download the full report visit: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/hsdm/ohs/documents/asthmabrief-nov2014.pdf>.